GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2751
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
HERBS AND MEDICINAL PLANTS
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the rare herbs and medicinal plants found in Uttarakhand hills have gone or are going to be extinct due to exploitation and smuggling;

(b) if so, the annual estimated loss due to such activities; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government for the development of such plants and herbs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (c): No survey has been conducted about the extinction of rare herbs and medicinal plants in the Uttarakhand hills and the loss of revenue occurring thereof. However, keeping in view the vast wealth of medicinal plants in different parts of the country and their increasing demand, need was felt to conserve them for judicious utilisation. Wild life Sanctuaries, National Parks, Biosphere Reserves and Botanical Gardens are being used for the conservation of such plants.A Central Sector Scheme on Development of Medicinal and Aromatic plants is being implemented since the VIII Plan by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Under this Scheme assistance is being provided for setting up herbal gardens and nurseries for medicinal plants as well as area expansion and demonstration in farmers fields. Besides, a scheme for providing Central Assistance for Development of Agro-Techniques and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants used in Ayurveda, Sidda, Unani and Homoeopathy is being implemented by the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.